

"Dinner at Eight" Opens at Royal Alexandra, Toronto, Monday, Oct. 2nd. Big  
Advance Sale

# CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 25, No. 23

TORONTO 2, CANADA

September 30th, 1933

## M-G-M SALES DOUBLED!

There's a reason for the record selling of  
M-G-M 1933-34 product!

The return of Garbo and Shearer to M-G-M's  
bigger-than-ever Star Family!

The return of Irving Thalberg to the  
more-powerful-than-ever producer line-up.

The Fall Season Parade of M-G-M Hits  
starting with "Tugboat Annie," "Penthouse,"  
"Broadway to Hollywood," "Night Flight," etc.

The Biggest Road-Show Sensation in M-G-M  
history "Dinner at 8."

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2



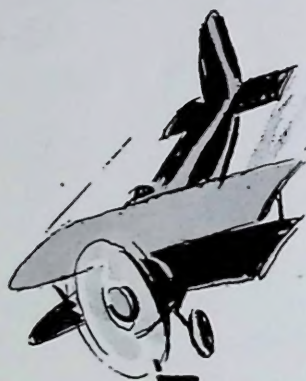
# NIGHT

John **BARRYMORE** Helen **HAYES**

Clark **GABLE** Lionel **BARRYMORE**

Robt. **MONTGOMERY** Myrna **LOY**

# FLIGHT



M-G-M glorifies 1933-34 as the season of immortal motion pictures, with casts of many brilliant stars! M-G-M which has just revealed the wonders of "Dinner at 8" in premieres on both Coasts, now gives the world "Night Flight."

# takes off!

**\*CLARENCE BROWN's**  
production. Screen play by Oliver H. P. Garrett. From  
the 1931 Prix Femina novel by Antoine De Saint Exupery.  
DAVID O. SELZNICK, Executive Producer



The Digest Wishes Its Many Jewish Readers a Happy New Year

# Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established in 1915 for  
Exhibitors

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

Telephone: Waverley 4929

Cable: Ontocanada

Published by Canadian

Moving Picture Digest

Company, Limited

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Editor and Managing Director

259 Spadina Ave. Toronto

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## ORCHESTRAS COMING IN



OFFICIALS of the Toronto Musical Protective Association foresee that orchestras are again to be introduced into the leading theatres in Canada.

Many theatres, it appears are preparing to give their patrons musical presentations by way of orchestral numbers as one of the features of their evening's program.

The Famous Players Canadian Corporation orchestra, which is to tour, will be a 10-piece orchestra and will visit two theatres in one night, playing about 20 minutes at each house. It is likely that this orchestra will be increased to twice its size.

The idea of the travelling orchestra is an excellent one, and there is no reason why such an orchestra cannot do more than two theatres in one night, if the time schedules can be arranged. If musicians are to be engaged for picture houses, it may be a good idea to introduce them in houses for matinee performances also, in order to help matinee attendance, where such attendance needs stimulation.

For any orchestra to play twenty or forty minutes a day in a picture house, will appeal to the orchestra itself as not sufficient service for adequate compensation, but if orchestras could fill in a schedule of time at several houses, it would give musicians employment without saddling too much overhead upon one theatre.

With sound pictures and no vaudeville, no house really needs an orchestra as a resident institution of that theatre, but since an orchestra is certainly an asset and can be made a feature, the orchestra problem for motion picture theatres, which play pictures only, can be solved by treating the orchestra as an act coming to play the theatre. Circuit theatres should be in a position to line up several theatres in a city for an orchestra, and with a Radio tie-in, musicians should find such an arrangement agreeable and profitable.

A bus for conveying the orchestra and instruments from one theatre to another is but a minor consideration easily arranged, reliable and convenient.

## B.I.P. AND RAY LEWIS SETTLE LITIGATION

BRITISH International Pictures and Ray Lewis have settled their differences and litigation to the satisfaction of both litigants and all who were involved in the legal controversy.

The Canadian Film trade will no doubt be pleased to learn that harmony once more prevails in the British film market in Canada, with all interests united for the general good of British Films and the Motion Picture Industry.

## C. P. WALKER

THE DIGEST offers its congratulations to C. P. Walker who recently celebrated his eightieth birthday.

"C. P." has been a resident of Winnipeg since 1897 when he began his theatrical career in that city. The Walker Circuit in Canada is known from coast to coast and many old-timers in the "legit", in vaudeville, can recount reminiscences of Ye Goode Olde theatrical days covering the Walker Circuit.

"C. P." began life as a printer. Born in Poultney, Vermont, on Sept. 19th, 1853, he moved west as a young man, locating at Fargo, where he and his brothers established the largest printing plant in North Dakota.

"C. P." is still actively engaged in Show Business, being managing-director of the Walker Theatre, Winnipeg.





# REGAL



RAY LEWIS

# PRESENTS

**M**R. N. L. NATHANSON returned from a five weeks' trip abroad, having spent about a week in London, England.

In an interview with The Digest Mr. Nathanson stated, "Business appears to be excellent in England. The people appear to be happy and busy. There is an air of content and of prosperity generally. The studios are actively engaged in production and the watchword is quality. The theatres are playing to better business than we have been having on this continent."

"All London is talking about the Korda production, 'The Private Life of Henry VIII', which is said to be the best British picture ever made. I am happy to say that Regal Films has this picture for release in Canada."

"'I Was A Spy' is another big British hit, which is creating box-office and much public talk."

The Digest asked Mr. "N. L." about theatre business in Canada. "Improving," stated Mr. Nathanson, "and we are looking for still further improvement. There are a sufficient number of good pictures on the market to stimulate the public appetite for theatre-going. Our policy of making theatre-managers showmen is the only policy which can secure the best returns for the best entertainment."

"Our theatre managers are as you know, Canadians, and since we cater in Canada to a Canadian public, we feel that our Showmen know what their patrons want, and how to inform them that their particular theatre has what they want by way of Entertainment. Show business was always most successfully operated by Showmen."

"There is an affinity of understanding between Showmen and that public which secures its entertainment at what is termed shows. The product of this season looks like real Show Business, and we are hoping and building for Prosperity. World conditions are still disturbing, but we must hold on to our belief that the worst is over and that Better Times are coming, if they are not already here."

**A**L SEDGWICK of the Tivoli Theatre, Toronto, had a great week's business with Universal's "Moonlight and Pretzels". The Tivoli played to better business with "Moonlight and Pretzels" than it had played to in the last three months, with the exception of "Love On Wheels", the British-Gaumont feature starring Jack Hulbert.

I am pleased to hear about "Moonlight and Pretzels" getting real business, because one of The Digest's real hobbies is Uncle Carl Laemmle, and any good luck he ever gets by way of good pictures and good box-office returns always sounds good to The Digest. Incidentally, Carl Laemmle has given the Industry of Motion Pic-

tures a son, Laemmle, Jr., who is a replica of his father, and our Industry should be grateful and proud of such an inheritance.

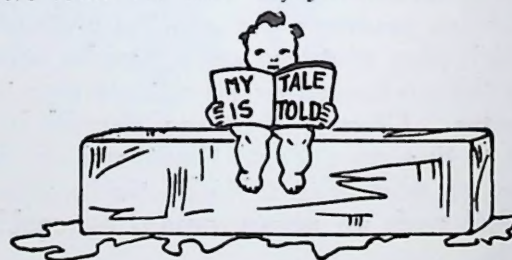
Getting back to "Moonlight and Pretzels", it is full of song hits, big dancing numbers and should make a hit with audiences that love musical shows. Manager Sedgwick informs me that the Tivoli patrons were very enthusiastic and demonstrative in their approval of "Moonlight and Pretzels".

*While I am in a reminiscent mood, it appears that wherever one goes to dance "The Three Little Pigs" song which was introduced in Disney's "Three Little Pigs" Symphony, is the big favourite for dancing, which reminds me that "Lullaby Land" was received at The Uptown like the return of a long-lost brother. "Lullaby Land" was repeated at The Uptown by special request. Manager Tom Daley made a screen announcement to that effect. It was worth the price of admission to see the smiles with which "Lullaby Land" was received and to hear the applause which greeted its appearance.*

**T**HERE was a short subject, "Windsor Castle", at The Uptown recently which was most beautifully produced, with a narrative running through its presentation. The story which related the traditions of "Windsor Castle" was an exceedingly interesting one, and the lecturer, who told the story had a most glorious voice to listen to. Gaumont-British produced this historical one-reeler, which is being released in Canada through Regal Films. It proved as big a hit at The Uptown as the feature picture.

"Waltz Time" with Evelyn Laye, at The Uptown, is a Gaumont-British released through Regal Films. It is a most happy picture with the glorious and melodic music of Johann Strauss singing its way all through. If "music hath charms to soothe the savage breast", then "Waltz Time" has enough charms to tame a jungle.

George Rotsky, Manager of the Palace Theatre, Montreal, said that "Waltz Time" had brought him more business than he had had in months. I can readily understand this, for "Waltz Time" is the type of a picture music-lovers could see with enjoyment several times.



**N. L. Nathanson Returns to Toronto, after Brief Holiday in Europe. Reports European Business Conditions Improving**



## Observations



By The Editor

THE T. Eaton Company has a window setting for "Dinner At Eight", which is a most attractive setting. The table has an exquisite lace cloth; at each end of the table there is a silver bowl of flowers. Plates have been laid for six, three places at each length of the table; two silver candleabras are placed, one at each end of a low silver bowl of fruit, the latter which is centred. The glasses are mulberry in colour to correspond with the colour of the grapes filling the bowl.

There is a butler in attendance, and several beautifully-gowned women, attended by their escorts in full dress. The exquisitely carved Chippendale chairs add a tone to the setting, and the ensemble makes one of the most attractive windows this company has had, in addition to giving "Dinner At Eight", a very effective example of exploitation and publicity.

\* \* \* \*

FOX reports a net profit of \$74,716 for the first quarter since the Fox reorganization of April 1st. Surplus for the quarter beginning April 1st is \$203,045.60. This is exclusive of theatre operations of Wesco Corp., the principal subsidiaries of which are in bankruptcy. As a result of reorganization Fox has no bank loans and debentures outstanding of \$1,783,600.

In the reorganization, debentures totalling \$37,917,754.75 were retired, and interests on these obligations from April 1st to August 1st was charged to paid-in surplus.

The net profits indicate an improvement in business!

\* \* \* \*

THE Ross Federal Service, a U.S. national theatre checking organization reports that out of a total of 866 businesses under survey in small cities and rural districts, 781 showed an improvement in employment and business conditions. The report covered every state in the U. S.

\* \* \* \*

SYLVIA SIDNEY and the Paramount are again in the position of employer and employee, peace having descended upon their differences, as a dove. Miss Sidney will start work immediately for Paramount on "Reunion".

\* \* \* \*

RADIO CITY Theatres will have an equal representation on the Advisory Board composed of the Rockefeller and RKO interests. M. H. Aylesworth, RKO President; J. R. McDonough, RKO General Manager, and Harold B. Franklin, RKO theatre head, represent the RKO interests on the Board, while W. G. Van Schmus of Rockefeller Centre, Inc., Wester Todd of Todd and Robertson, and Francis Christy, attorney for Rockefeller Centre are the remaining members of the Board.

\* \* \* \*

METRO - GOLDWYN - MAYER announce, through Mr. Arthur M. Loew, head of the company's foreign department, that 50% of the gross revenue of this company is obtained from its foreign interests.

M-G-M will make foreign versions of 50% of its product for 1933-4, producing at Paris, Rome and Barcelona. Twelve pictures are in production at Hollywood;

and in M-G-M's foreign studios production is at a peak, states Mr. Loew. No overseas versions are being produced at Culver City.

\* \* \* \*

ALEXANDER KORDA who produced "The Private Life of Henry VIII", reported in England as the best picture which England has yet made, and which Regal Films announce "they proudly present", will direct Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., in a British picture, "Symphony in Purple", the latter a tentative title. Korda is director-general of the London Films, and the Fairbanks picture is to be released through United Artists.

\* \* \* \*

"PENTHOUSE" with Warner Baxter and Myrna Loy, an M-G-M feature, opened at Loew's and created a most favorable impression. The story which is by Arthur Somers Roche has had a faithful screen adaptation; save in the "movie", the gangster dies defending the lawyer who saved his life.

The dialogue of "Penthouse" is amusing throughout, while the action keeps you "on your toes" waiting for what is to happen. Warner Baxter has a most ingratiating part in the role of a lawyer who saves a gangster from the chair. The gangster although guilty of many crimes, does not happen to be guilty of the particular one for which he is being tried and "framed".

There is a love story which becomes involved, but its complexes make for more interest.

Tony Gazotti, the gangster as played by Nat Pendleton, certainly shares honours with the stars by way of helping to make the picture the Entertainment which it is. W. V. Van Dyke directed this Cosmopolitan magazine story and directed it extremely well.

Loew's audience, Toronto, showed every evidence that they liked the story and the players.

Myrna Loy is a favorite, and she has the kind of a part which suits her peculiar style. A fascinating picture would be the proper adjective to use in connection with "Penhouse".

Charles Butterworth as Layton, the butler, is his usual butlerized self, meaning that he gives considerable service to "Penthouse".

\* \* \* \*

THE Gaumont-British report has been approved by the directors. "The decrease of £27,690 in the profits of this company was not unsatisfactory," stated Mr. Mark Ostrer, in addressing the sixth annual meeting of the Corporation, "when one considered the exceptionally warm summer of 1932, together with additional heavy Entertainments Taxation, and the continued serious state of unemployment."

"The company's predominant position in the British Industry had been well upheld, while the potential value of its increasing foreign business should ensure an additional source of revenue," stated the chairman.

The report and balance sheet, together with the dividend of 7 percent on ordinary shares were adopted unanimously.

In March of 1934, the directors propose to take into consideration the policy of interim dividend payments as suggested by Mr. Ostrer.

**Express Cut in Rates will Save Canadian Exhibitors \$40,000 Yearly**



## New Express Tariff, Oct. 2, 1933

**F**OLLOWING a meeting with representatives of the Canadian National Railways and Canadian Pacific Express Company, a meeting which was attended by Mr. Bolstead of Famous Players, Mr. Hanson of Allied Theatre Owners, Mr. Haskell Masters of United Artists and Colonel John Cooper representing the distributors, a reduction in express rates was obtained.

The new tariff goes into effect October 2nd, 1933, and covers the Express Department of the Canadian National Railways, the Canadian Pacific Express Company, the Railway Express Company and all other Canadian Express companies.

The rates cover motion picture films, including disc records, and printed advertising matter used in connection therewith.

The rates are as applying between:

1. **TORONTO** and points in Ontario:  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.10 New Rate .85  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.35 New Rate 1.05  
Others in proportion.
2. **ST. JOHN, N.B.**, and points in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island:  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.10 New Rate .85  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.35 New Rate 1.05  
Others in proportion.
3. **MONTREAL** and points in Quebec including Ottawa, Ont.:  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.10 New Rate .85  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.35 New Rate 1.05  
Others in proportion.
4. **WINNIPEG** and points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario (West of and including Port Arthur and Armstrong):  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.15 New Rate .90  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.50 New Rate 1.20  
Others in proportion.
5. **CALGARY** and points in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia (East of and including Kamloops and Midway, B.C.):  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.15 New Rate .90  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.50 New Rate 1.20  
Others in proportion.
6. **VANCOUVER** and points in British Columbia:  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.20 New Rate .95  
Where present rate (100 lbs.) 1.60 New Rate 1.25  
Others in proportion.

These reductions work out about 22 per cent, but on shipments less than 100 lbs., the saving decreases with the weight of the shipment.

## M-G-M to Make Hudson Bay Romance

Back from a 14 months' stay in Alaska making the moving picture to be known as "Eskimo", Captain Peter Freuchen, of Hollywood, started off for the north once more from Winnipeg, with Churchill as his destination.

The bearded Danish captain, who carries his six feet of ruggedness very well despite a wooden leg, talked about the present trip. No motion pictures are to be made this time, but a general reconnoitre of the north country is to be made in preparation for a screen play and a book about the romance of the Hudson's Bay Co. With the captain is a young English writer, C. M. Nelson, who will be joint author of the book.

Since the arrival of the two Hollywood men direct from the studios of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, contacts with Hudson's Bay Co., men in Winnipeg have been made.

Most of the sea captain's life was spent in the waters around Greenland, an experience which made him valuable for the production of the Alaskan film.

## Victoria Theatre Reopens To Packed Business

The Victoria Theatre, Sherbrooke, Quebec, reopened to packed business, with hundreds turned away, after it had been closed for a period of two years. The new manager, William Hall, is all lined up for big pictures and big business.

The house has been remodelled with Sound installed. Mr. Hall was manager of the Victoria six years ago when silent pictures were presented. He was also in charge of the King Street West picture palace several years ago, and then moved to Verdun City, where he operated the Palace Theatre.

"We will be presenting a double bill of first class pictures," states Mr. Hall in a press interview. "We intend that every performance shall be designed to give the public entertainment they desire."

The opening, Eddie Cantor in "The Kid from Spain", and Marlene Dietrich in "Blonde Venus", was the occasion of a continuous performance from one to eleven p.m., with crowded houses which almost excluded patrons from securing seats save at the supper show, or early evening.

## Gaiety to Go British

With the opening of the winter season in the offing, Winnipeg theatres are announcing their new policies of entertainment, and, in line with this idea, Manager "Bill" Novak, of the Gaiety, has outlined his plans for showing at his theatre during the coming season the best British films that come to this country.

"Only the real outstanding Hollywood productions will fill in when it will be impossible to procure a British film," Mr. Novak said, adding that "Gold Diggers of 1933" will be one of the Hollywood products to play the Gaiety.

Some of the new British films that have been booked for first-run showing at the Gaiety are "Love on Wheels", Jack Hulbert's latest effort; "F. P. 1", that sensational futuristic film which was accorded four stars in a well-known weekly recently; and another that should not be overlooked is Cicely Courtneidge in "Soldiers of the King". In addition, the Gaiety will show British "miniatures", or short subjects.

Manager Novak commenced his new policy recently with the showing of "The Good Companions", one of the best British pictures made to date.

## New Theatre License Fees For Saskatchewan

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

A new schedule of license fees governing the operation of theatres in Saskatchewan, to be effective October 1, has been announced.

Theatre licenses are listed as follows: Cities of 10,000 population and over, \$250; cities of less than 10,000, \$150; towns, each theatre, \$50; villages and hamlets, \$20.

Provision is made for the issuance of a license for a portion of a year where the government sees fit.

Film exchanges distributing standard motion picture films shall pay an annual fee of \$250. Exchanges distributing miniatures shall pay an annual fee of \$25. Standard machine operators' license fees are set at \$10 and miniatures at \$2.

**C**ARL LAEMMLE, "Uncle Carl", President of Universal, sailed from New York, and proceeded straight to Paris. "Uncle Carl" visits Europe in connection with Universal's production activities and will visit London in October.

## Motion Picture Heads and Employees Keep Yom Kipper Fast in Synagogues, Toronto, Revealing Showmen as Men of Religious Principles